



STANDING WITH WOMEN IN THE FIGHT FOR GLOBAL GENDER JUSTICE

Students, teachers and USW members at Camp for Peace in Liberia.

March 8th, International Women's Day, is a moment to remember that the fight for women's rights continues. True gender equity and a life free of gender-based violence are still aspirations for many women in Canada and around the world.

Lately, we are often being reminded that access to education, decent employment, pay equity, and healthcare reproductive choices for women cannot be taken for granted, and why campaigns and efforts to ensure women's rights are protected must be a priority.

Increasing rates of intimate partner violence and femicide are deeply concerning. Moreover, United Nations officials have often pointed that "Global poverty has a woman's face," with 1 of every 10 women in the world living in extreme poverty, struggling to meet basic needs and disproportionately carrying the burden of unpaid care work.

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund (SHF) recognizes the importance of ensuring women's concerns and perspectives are considered and included in all the initiatives we support. For close to 40 years, we have built alliances with progressive movements and organizations at home and abroad that have been at the forefront of fighting for women's rights.

From Afro-Colombian women leading the charge against systemic racism and the effects of armed conflict, to Bangladeshi garment workers risking their safety to demand fair wages and safe working conditions, and dedicated women survivors of the Liberian civil war playing a pivotal role in the country's transition to peace, the SHF is proud to accompany and recognize women activists who have dedicated their lives to building a more just and equitable world for all.



Miyela Riascos
Photo credit: Fundación Aribí



Kalpona Akter
Photo credit: BCWS



Alice Howard
Photo credit: Camp for Peace

Miyela Riascos, Colombia

An Afro-Colombian community leader who has fought for land and public services as human rights, Miyela played a key role organizing the 2017 civic strike in Buenaventura against systemic marginalization. She continues to support the community through her organization, the Aribí Socio-Environmental Foundation, advocating for accountability from Colombian authorities on the promises made during the strike.

Kalpona Akter, Bangladesh

A former child worker in Bangladesh's garment factories, Kalpona is now the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS), advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and union rights for garment workers. She has exposed the exploitation of women in the sector and, alongside BCWS, filed a complaint against Canadian retailer Mark's and its parent company, Canadian Tire, for paying workers less than a living wage.

Alice Howard, Liberia

The assistant supervisor at Camp for Peace Vocational School in Liberia, a long-time SHF-supported project, Alice works with limited resources but unwavering dedication to empowering local youth. The school offers courses in agriculture, construction, tailoring, and weaving, with a special focus on supporting single mothers by providing on-site childcare, all while contributing to the region's post-civil war recovery.

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund celebrates and acknowledges the vital leadership of women who are driving social change and championing women's rights movements globally.

To read more about these three inspiring women activists, scan the QR code below:



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